on 14.9.2007 in respect of certain transferred cases and writ petitions relating to the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project, the Government constituted a Committee consisting of eminent persons on 5.10.2007 with the terms of reference to invite objections and suggestions from all concerned including the writ petitioners having interest in the subject matter and to consider all suggestions/proposals/documents after giving them a personal hearing. The Committee has submitted its report on 29.11.2007. The report of the Committee is being studied. The matter is *subjudice.*

Preparations for Beijing Olympics

*42. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the preparations made for winning more medals in the forthcoming Beijing Olympics;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to sort out the problems being faced by our athletes and sportspersons which prevent them from winning medals at Olympic Games even though we are the second largest country in the world;

(c) if so, the specific steps taken by Government during each of the last three years in this regard and the sports and events in which our sportspersons are expected to excel during the forthcoming Olympic games; and

(d) the amount spent by the Union Government on preparations for Olympics, so far?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As against one silver medal won in Athens Olympics 2004, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the National Sports Federations (NSFs) have identified medal probables in 6 of the 11 disciplines in which India is likely to participate in Beijing Olympic, 2008 and are implementing their training programme in terms of coaching, international exposures, scientific and equipment support and engagement of foreign coaches. On the basis of the training given and the current performances of the players, India is estimated to hold promising medal prospects in the disciplines of Shooting, Archery, Wrestling, Boxing, Athletics and Tennis.

(b) While the steps outlined in (a) above are designed to overcome specific problems in different prospective sports disciplines, our overall performance in the Olympics has not been satisfactory in the past mainly because of the narrow pool of talented athletes from which our talent is drawn compared to the overall strength of our youth population. Talent on a vast scale has to be spotted, nurtured and trained to eventually and exponentially expand our medal prospects. With a view to addressing this issue, the Ministry proposes to implement Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan, which is aimed at providing basic sports infrastructure and promoting sports competitions at the grassroots level. Apart from broad-basing of sports, in the long run, this will result in exponential growth in the identification of gifted and talented athletes who can then be groomed in to high performing athletes and thus lead to increased medal prospects at the international level. The Ministry has also prepared a Draft Comprehensive National Sports Policy, 2008, which apart from addressing the deficiencies in the system, aims at generating a positive attitude towards sports in the country thus facilitating the emergence of India as a leading sporting nation.

(c) and (d) Preparations for winning more medals in all major international events, including the Beijing Olympics, is an on-going process and is based on the Long Term Development Plans (LTDP) prepared by the NSFs. Government provides assistance to the

NSFs for various activities such as holding national/international sports events in India, the participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, the engagement of national and international coaches and the procurement of equipment and consumables.

To address the specific coaching/training requirements of identified medal prospects, individual sportspersons are also being assisted directly by the Ministry for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training' and through the 'National Sports Development Fund'. The details of amount spent by Government under these schemes during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount released in		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (till Jan.'08)
1.	Scheme of Assistance to NSFs	38.67	34.08	43.08
2.	Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training	0.50	2.8	3.0
3.	National Sports Development Fund	0.48	0.96	0.88 released (Total sanctioned Rs. 2.20 cr.)

Employees in PSUs under CIT

*43. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permanent employees working in PSUs under the administrative control of his Ministry as on 31st March, 2007, unit-wise break-up; and

(b) the number of contract/casual/contingency workers working in each of these units as on 31st March, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The number of permanent employees and contract/casual/ contingency workers working in each of the PSUs under the Ministry of Communications & IT as on 31st March, 2007 are given as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the PSU	As on 31st March, 2007	
		Permanent Employees	Contract/Casual/Contingency workers
1	BSNL	320506	12830
2	MTNL	48454	3514
3	TCIL	897	201
4	ITI	13415	739